

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on November 4, 2004. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 9-16 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1, 9 and 13 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Entry of amendment

This amendment *prima facie* places the case in condition for allowance. Alternatively, it places this case in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Appreciation is expressed for the indication that claims 9-16 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim objections

While not conceding the propriety of this objection and to advance prosecution of the above-identified application, the claims have been amended. Withdrawal of this objection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,437,972 to Sellers in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,152,627 to Watanabe et al. (Watanabe).

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of:

a translucent key sheet and a plurality of resin key tops arranged on the key sheet, the key pad being provided on a substrate on which a circuit component is mounted, the circuit component protruding from a surface of the substrate,

wherein a resin key top of the resin key tops has a flange portion, the flange portion outwardly protruding from a lower end side surface of the resin key top, and

wherein the flange portion has a clearance portion for avoiding contact with the circuit component under depression of the resin key tops.

Sellers arguably teaches a keyboard with interior stiffening ribs having key members 32, base plate 44 and rib 52.

However, Sellers fails to disclose, teach or suggest a translucent key sheet. Moreover, Sellers fails to disclose a substrate on which a circuit component is mounted. Thus, Sellers fails to disclose, teach a translucent key sheet and a plurality of resin key tops arranged on the key sheet, the key pad being provided on a substrate on which a circuit component is mounted, the circuit component protruding from a surface of the substrate.

In addition, Sellers fails to disclose, teach or suggest a resin key top of the resin key tops that has a flange portion, wherein the flange portion outwardly protrudes from a lower end side surface of the resin key top.

Furthermore, Sellers fails to disclose, teach or suggest a flange portion having a clearance portion for avoiding contact with the circuit component under depression of the resin key tops.

Watanabe arguably teaches a keyboard device having a plurality of keyswitches S.

Nevertheless, Watanabe fails to disclose, teach or suggest a translucent key sheet. Moreover, Watanabe fails to disclose, teach or suggest a circuit component that protrudes from a surface of the substrate.

In addition, Watanabe fails to disclose, teach or suggest a resin key top of the resin key tops having a flange portion, the flange portion outwardly protruding from a lower end side surface of the resin key top.

Also, Watanabe fails to disclose teach or suggest the flange portion has a clearance portion for avoiding contact with the circuit component under depression of the resin key tops.

Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  

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